YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY
ask Why

THE LOOP

SPRING 2025 WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG

REDISCOVER YDL-MICHIGAN AVENUE

As I write, the final pieces are being fitted into the Michigan Avenue library's vestibule. With its entrance reassembled, the building will be able to reopen at last. Despite so many disappointing setbacks since the flood, we have persevered. Very soon, library service will resume downtown.

Things have changed! The interior has been lovingly renovated, small group study rooms added, and the Youth basement transformed into a bright, welcoming space. While closed we took the opportunity to insulate, and the building feels much more comfortable. We bid our longtime Branch Manager a fond farewell; please join us in welcoming a fresh new face to the role (see page 3).

Thank you for your patience throughout this ordeal. Thanks also to our Reopening Week sponsors, Bank of Ann Arbor and the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority. When the doors open, the welcome back promises to be very special.

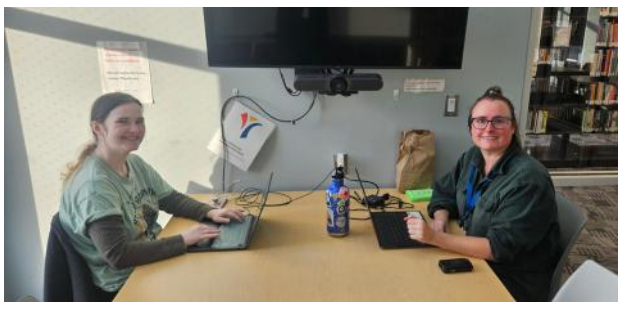
– Lisa Hoenig, *Director*

LIBRARY SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM COMING TO YDL

The Ypsilanti District Library is transforming how patrons can connect with social service resources in the community, thanks to a generous grant from Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH).

With funding from the WCCMH and Public Safety Preservation Millage, YDL will hire a full-time Library Social Worker by March 31. This MSW position will engage with the community at YDL's three locations to help provide information, support, referrals, and follow-through to people experiencing challenging life circumstances. The Library Social Worker will help patrons seeking community resources such as mental health services, substance use services, housing services, food, education, and other social services.

"Embedding a social worker in the library will both support the community's vulnerable populations and reduce the strain on YDL staff," said YDL Director Lisa Hoenig.



Through the work of Margaret Ann Paauw and Chelsea Muto from EMU, Cynthia Wilson and Anna Lyon—student interns from EMU's School of Social Work (pictured above)—are already in place at YDL-Superior to help connect those in need with vital services. A full-time LMSW will be able to offer case management services and will inform library programming with input from the community. They will also strengthen YDL's existing partnerships with agencies like WCCMH, Trinity Health, Michigan Medicine, Barrier Busters, Ozone House, Corner Health Center, and SOS Community Services. The social worker will not, however, provide onsite behavioral health treatments.

In addition to making the hire of a full-time social worker possible, funds from the county will go towards stipends for the EMU student interns, giveaway items—like water bottles, toothbrushes, or bus tokens—for patrons in need, and trauma training for library staff from EMU School of Social Work Professor Sarah Shea. Paauw will also conduct an in-depth evaluation of the program to gauge its sustainability as part of the three-year grant.

"YDL will be able to enhance the quality of its referrals, provide more in-depth assistance than staff could manage alone, and connect more patrons with much-needed community-based services and resources for improved mental, emotional, and physical health," Hoenig said.

Made possible by the Washtenaw County Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage Funding.

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YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY
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WE'LL MISS YOU, MARY!

Mary Garboden will leave big shoes to fill when she steps down as YDL's Superior Branch Manager. Her last day will be April 18.

Garboden moved from Grand Rapids to Ypsilanti in 2007 to start her job at YDL as an Outreach Librarian, a month after the small Superior Branch opened in the Fire Station at MacArthur and Harris.

In nearly 18 years at the library, Garboden advanced to Head Librarian of Outreach Services, and in September 2022 she became the first Superior Branch Manager, overseeing the full-service facility that opened on Harris Road in November 2022.

"I've often said that the Superior Library and I grew up together!" Garboden noted.

During the lead-up to opening the new branch, Garboden experienced one of her most memorable moments as a YDL librarian—the Book Brigade in October 2022. Over 400 people lined up on Harris Road to pass thousands of books from the old branch in the fire station to the newly-built library around the corner.

"[It was] such a beautiful celebration of what libraries mean to Ypsilanti," Garboden said.

Through nearly two decades of watching patrons grow up, listening to their book recommendations, and working with staff to answer the trickiest questions, Garboden has left her mark.

"It's hard to put into words what Mary means to me, to this staff, and the YDL library system," said adult para-pro Monique Lopez-Geiman. "She approaches everything she does with thoughtfulness, empathy, and a genuine resolve to make whatever she touches better."

Youth para-pro Kallista Walker, who started when the new library opened, has also enjoyed Garboden's leadership.

"What a joy it has been working with Mary," Walker said. "She leads with care and deep compassion. She has so many superpowers!"

Clerk Sienna Higgins agrees."She provides immeasurable support to all patrons and staff," Higgins said.

From jumpstarting the old Bookmobile with her Honda Fit to opening a brand new branch, the library has also left its mark on Garboden.

"I have gotten to be part of people's lives, often in very personal ways and for a very long time," she said.

She's looking forward to enjoying the library as a patron, with lots of walks from her house to the downtown branch in her future. She is also planning to camp around Lake Michigan, see family, spend time in the garden, and catch up on all of those book recommendations.

"I will miss getting to tell people I work for YDL, because honestly, it's just a magical place!" Garboden said.

NEW TO YDL

ACCESS *THE NEW YORK TIMES* ONLINE

Read *The New York Times* online for free with your YDL card!

YDL now has an online subscription to *The New York Times*. As a YDL patron, get access to articles, recipes, games, and more. Create a free account, then visit **ypsilibrary.org/download** for a 24-hour access code.*

If you need help, visit any of our service desks or visit **ypsilibrary.org/NYT** for more details.

**New access codes generated daily.*

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW DOLLHOUSE AT WHITTAKER?

Create new worlds at YDL-Whittaker with the refinished dollhouse in the Youth Department. The four-story structure is located by the rotating toy area and stocked with furniture and other items to keep your little ones occupied for hours!

The Beal family donated the dollhouse to YDL in 2023. Youth Librarian Ms. Liz spent a year painstakingly restoring and resurfacing it to get it ready for action. To see some pictures of its transformation, visit **ypsilibrary.org/dollhouse**.

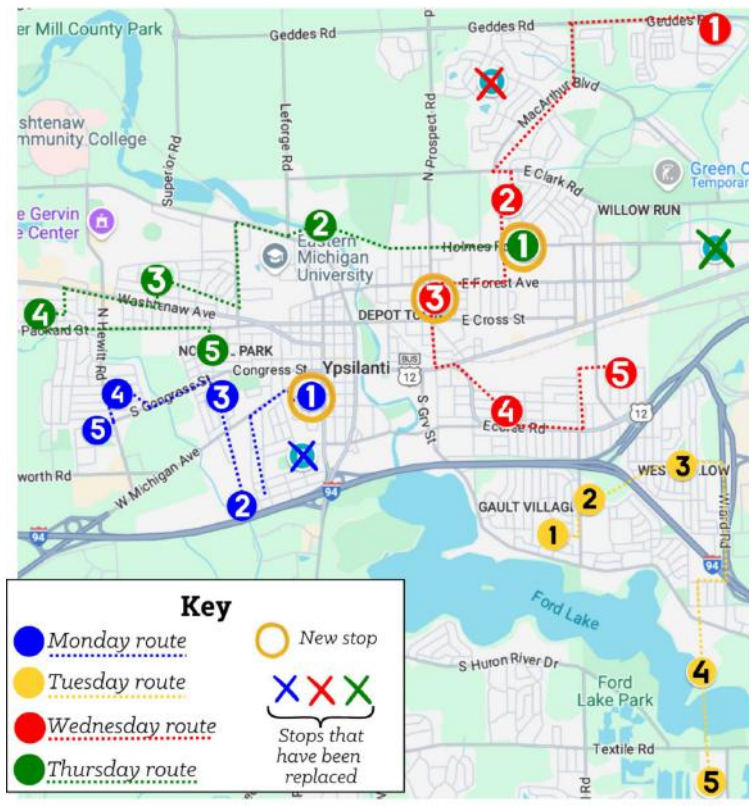
THE BOOKMOBILE HAS NEW STOPS

This spring, YDL is refreshing some of our Bookmobile routes.

Since three of our stops have had low attendance for some time, we're moving to where the action is! Starting Monday, March 3, the Bookmobile will no longer visit Perry School, Oakbrook Park, or Christ Temple.

We're sad to see them go, but we're ecstatic to announce new Bookmobile stops at the intersection of Ainsworth and Ferris, Rue Vendome (between Rue Willette and Rue Deauville), and Wendell Holmes Park (by the baseball diamond) off Wendell Road near Holmes Elementary. The new schedule with those stops is:

- **Mondays from 4-4:35pm:** Ainsworth and Ferris
- **Wednesdays from 5:35-6:10pm:** Rue Vendome
- **Thursdays from 4-4:35pm:** Wendell Holmes Park



For a limited time after the new schedule is in place, visit us at any of our stops to enter your name into a raffle for a chance to win YDL swag! Visit ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile for the full weekly schedule.

Questions? Call 734-482-4110 x1316, or email outreach@ypsilibrary.org.

WELCOME ABOARD, KATIE!

Katie Dover-Taylor is the new Branch Manager at YDL-Michigan! Previously, she was Head of Adult Services at Westland Public Library, and she joins YDL after long-time Branch Manager Joy Cichewicz retired in February.

Dover-Taylor takes the helm as we prepare to reopen the newly-renovated downtown branch.

"The branch is an integral part of our downtown ecosystem, and staff are looking forward to reopening and reconnecting with patrons and community partners," Dover-Taylor said.

She has worked in public libraries across Southeast Michigan for 15 years and looks forward to hitting the ground running at the Michigan Avenue branch.

"As an Ypsi resident, the Michigan Avenue branch is my home library," she said. "The branch manager position will provide me with the opportunity to serve our community directly."

ARE YOU "DRAWN TO THE LIBRARY?"

What is the draw to the library? Everything! That's why millions of people across the country visit their libraries every week. The 67th annual National Library Week (NLW) is April 6-12, with the theme "Drawn to the Library," emphasizing that the library has something for everyone.

This year's NLW co-chairs are award-winning author and illustrator Raina Telgemeier and cartoonist and comic theorist Scott McCloud. They've partnered to create a one-of-a-kind graphic novel, *The Cartoonists Club*, coming from Scholastic's Graphix imprint on April 1.

"I'm thrilled to be a co-chair of National Library Week because I know the importance of kids and communities gathering to share their individual types of creativity and inspire each other," Telgemeier said. "When Scott and I were working on *The Cartoonists Club*, that's exactly what we had in mind."

Sunday, Apr. 6
NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

Monday, Apr. 7
RIGHT TO READ DAY

Tuesday, Apr. 8
NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY

Wednesday, Apr. 9
NATIONAL LIBRARY OUTREACH DAY

Thursday, Apr. 10
TAKE ACTION FOR LIBRARIES DAY

Throughout the week (and every week), see what resources bring you to YDL. Check out a book, use the computer, try a STEM kit, or join a knitting group. Using your library is supporting your library!

On Thursday, Apr. 10, Aubree's on Whittaker Road is holding a Dine to Donate event to support YDL. From 11am-10pm, Aubree's will donate 20% of your bill to support the YDL Summer of HeART programs. This applies to dine in, delivery, and carry-out orders. Just show a copy of the flyer, available at YDL branches, or at ypsilibrary.org/events to your server.

The Summer of HeArt series is a partnership with the Youth Arts Alliance.

Try one of these for NLW:

- **Kroger Plus -** Help YDL grow while you grocery shop! Connect your Shopper's Card to Ypsilanti District Library through Kroger.com, and a portion of your regular purchases will support YDL.
- **Attend Library Events -** We craft events for all ages and interests. Browse our calendar, bring your friends, and enjoy our dynamic programming.
- **Volunteer Your Time -** Join the Friends of YDL and help sort book donations, run the Friends Book Shop, and organize book sales.

About National Library Week

In 1958, the American Library Association co-established National Library Week to encourage people to read in their leisure time and support their local libraries. Libraries are most frequently associated with reading and book borrowing, but NLW reminds us that libraries offer our communities so much more.

EVENTS

Adult

Mar 1

YPSIWRITES ZINE WORKSHOP: ENGAGING WITH DEMOCRACY THROUGH WRITING

2 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Former YpsiWrites' Writer of Ypsilanti Angelica Esquivel will talk about the history of zine-making and social justice while you create your own zine. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mondays, Mar 3 - 31

MEDICARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: WE CAN HELP!

11 AM - 3 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Trinity patients who have lost Aetna and Humana in-network coverage and anyone with Medicare questions can get individual help from MMAP. Contact Monica at 734-482-4110 x1316 for appointment information. ***You MUST schedule a one-on-one appointment to get this service.***

Tuesdays, Mar 4 - Apr 22 | May 13 - 27

ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

1 PM* | YDL-Superior

Practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting. No registration is required and all levels of English are welcome. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start time for each group. *Starting May 13, meeting times are at 4 pm.

Mar 5

LIVING WITH LOW VISION: AT-HOME ADAPTATIONS

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join Dr. Erin Klukas, a low-vision optometrist from the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, as she explores at-home adaptations that make living with low vision easier and safer. A Q&A and conversation will follow. **Please note: Dr. Klukas cannot give specific, individual medical advice during this event.** Part of our Low Vision Series in partnership with Kellog Eye Center.

Mar 5 | Apr 2 | May 7

CLASSIC NOIR MOVIES

6 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join us to watch some classic Noir movies. Showtimes at 6:30.
Mar 5: *Gun Crazy* (1950)
Apr 2: *Too Late for Tears* (1949)
May 7: *Lured* (1947)

Mar 5

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: PODCASTS: AN ALL-PURPOSE MARKETING STRATEGY

6:30 PM | Virtual

Discuss the importance of podcasts in digital marketing and how they can drive traffic, engage consumers, or be sliced and diced as a product. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events for the Zoom link.

Thursdays, Mar 6 - Apr 24 | May 15 - 29

BASIC LITERACY COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

10:30 AM | YDL-Superior

Get help from Washtenaw Literacy with reading, writing, computer skills, work skills, and GED prep.

Thursdays, Mar 6 - Jun 5

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE: ADVANCE YPSI PROGRAM

3-5 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Meet with representatives from Advance Ypsi—an education and job training initiative for high schoolers and adults—in the Whittaker Lobby and get your questions answered.

Mar 6

BIRTHING BASICS

6:30 PM | YDL-Superior

Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to guide you through what to expect as you welcome your new baby. Childcare available for ages 3 & up.

Fridays, Mar 7 - Apr 18

DIGITAL LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

12 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Drop in on Friday afternoons from 12-2 pm for FREE sessions for adults on building your digital literacy skills with Washtenaw Literacy. For more information, contact steichen@washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-337-3370.

Mar 8 | May 3

CANVA 101

11 AM | YDL-Superior

Explore Canva, a free graphic design tool. Learn to create flyers, social media content, and more. No design experience needed. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 8 | Apr 1

PYSANKY

Mar 8 | 3pm | YDL-Superior
Apr 1 | 5:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Pysanky, also known as Easter Eggs, are a traditional Ukrainian folk craft. Learn how to create these small works of art and more about the tradition at this class. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 12 | Apr 9 | May 14

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Visit with representatives from MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast for information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance. For more information, visit MWSE.ORG.

Mar 14 | Apr 25 | May 23

LNGO CRAFTERNOONS (Ages 55+)

2:30 PM | YDL-Michigan*

Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on a craft project. All materials will be provided. Register for each workshop individually.
Mar 14: Pysanky eggs (*YDL-Superior)
Apr 25: Linocut stamp making
May 23: TBD

Mar 14

COMMUNITY OPEN MIC NIGHT

7-9 PM | Corner Brewery - 720 Norris St.

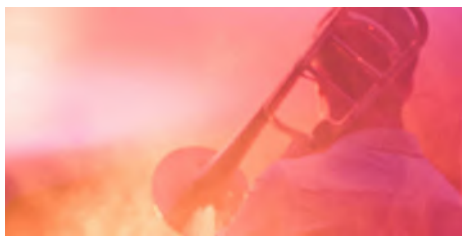
Writers are encouraged to share their work, in whatever stage it is currently in, with supportive members of the YpsiWrites community. Register at ypsiwrites.com.

Mar 15

THE RJ SPANGLER BAND WITH JAMES O'DONNELL

2 PM | YDL-Superior

RJ, James, and the fellas will present a one-hour concert covering music from the swing era, the Great American Song Book, bossa nova, and some funky boogaloo. Presented by the Jazz Foundation of America.



Mar 18

CREATING A NATURAL HABITAT GARDEN

6 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Learn to create a habitat garden for birds, bees, and butterflies. Program led by Washtenaw County Parks Naturalist Shawn Severance.

Mar 19

YDL APP FOR BEGINNERS

1 PM | YDL-Superior

Learn to use the YDL app to download ebooks, audiobooks, TV shows, movies, and more from the comfort of your home. Bring the device you'll be downloading to and your current library card. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 19

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: HOW TO TALK WITH A COMMERCIAL LENDER

6:30 PM | Virtual

Join Tom McFadden—SBA Lender Relations Specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration—as he reviews the "5 C's of Lending" that can help loan applicants give themselves the best chance for approval. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 20 | Apr 17

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Seniors (ages 55+), join us each month as we work to represent and give voice to the needs of older adults at the library.

Mar 20

THRIVE ART RECEPTION

6 PM | YDL-Superior

Studio artists from Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston share their disability journeys through a collaborative group showcase. Meet the artists, view THRIVE—the newest exhibit from Disability Network's studio artists—and enjoy light refreshments.

Mar 22

BREASTFEEDING BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

10:30 AM | YDL-Superior

Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support for a crash course in breastfeeding. Grab your support team and come out for a great conversation with childcare (ages 3 & up), snacks, and prizes.

Mar 22, 11 AM | Apr 16, 6:30 PM | May 10, 11 AM

YPSIWRITES WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING

See description for locations

Join other writers for open writing time in an YpsiWrites Writer's Room. Bring a work in progress or start something new! YpsiWrites voluteers can provide prompts for inspiration and one-on-one support.
Mar 22: YDL-Whittaker
Apr 16: Virtual
May 10: YDL-Superior
Register at tinyurl.com/mwz9yh6v.

Mar 22

EXPRESS YOURSELF: MINDFUL COLORING WORKSHOP (55+)

2 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Learn the basics of adult coloring and mindful relaxation from Stephanie Wren, owner of Smart Cards Greeting. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 29

WRITING ONESELF: LETTERS AND EMOTIONS

11 AM | Virtual

Join clinical social worker and poet David Boeving to explore the personal and social uses of emotions and how letters can help us make effective use of our emotions. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 29

JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

2 PM | YDL-Superior

It's YDL's inaugural jigsaw puzzle competition! Two-person teams will race to finish a 500-piece puzzle for a $25 Barnes and Noble gift card. Sign up to join a team, or enter with a friend. Space is limited. Call 734-482-4110 x1470 to sign up.

Apr 2

ENCORE PRESENTATION OF DEMYSTIFYING OUR AGING EYES

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join Dr. Erin Klukas, a low-vision optometrist from the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, as she explores common ocular diseases that affect vision with age. **Please note: Dr. Klukas cannot give specific, individual medical advice during this event.** Part of our Low Vision Series in partnership with Kellogg Eye Center.

Apr 2 | May 7

WHAT IS A DOULA?

6 PM | YDL-Superior

Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to learn about doulas, what they do, the different types, how they could benefit you, and even how to become one. Childcare available for ages 3 & up.

Apr 2

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: CONTRACTS 101 FOR CHUMMIES

6:30 PM | Virtual

Come learn what a small business owner needs to know about contracts with lawyer Larry Powe. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 5

NEEDLE FELTING: SPRINGTIME EGGS

11 AM | YDL-Superior

Learn basic needle felting by making colorful needle-felted eggs in time for spring. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events or call 482-4110 x2431.

Apr 5

STORIES OF HOME: WHAT MAKES YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GREAT?

11 AM | Virtual

Join this interactive workshop to reflect on and celebrate the special places that shape our lives. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 5

BEGINNERS' PRINTMAKING (Ages 13+)

3 PM | YDL-Superior

Paloma Núñez-Regueiro will teach the basics of printmaking, including image transfering, carving tools, inking, and printing. You will create an edition of 5 small prints. Núñez-Regueiro's work *Breathe In, Breathe Out*, was recently added to YDL-Superior's permanent collection. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 10

DINE TO DONATE AT AUBREE'S

11 AM - 10 PM | 2122 Whittaker Rd

Enjoy delicious pizza at Aubree's on Whittaker Road for a good cause! From 11 AM - 10 PM, 20% of your dine-in, delivery, and carryout orders will be donated to YDL. Just show a copy of the flyer to your server (ypsilibrary.org/events).

Apr 12

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH REPS. JIMMIE WILSON, JR. AND JASON MORGAN

11 AM | YDL-Superior

Join Rep Jimmie Wilson, Jr. (D-32), and special guest Rep. Jason Morgan (D-23), for updates on legislation, their work in Lansing, and a Q&A. To attend this event virtually or in-person, email JimmieWilson@house.mi.gov.

Apr 16

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS AND YOU

6:30 PM | Virtual

Hear how social media influencers affect marketing, trends in social media marketing channels and tools, and suggestions on becoming a successful social media influencer. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 19

FACEBOOK 101

11 AM | YDL-Superior

Learn the ins and outs of Facebook, from posting updates to understanding privacy settings. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 26

MOSAIC: POETRY IN PIECES

11 AM | Virtual

Join YpsiWrites to celebrate National Poetry month with a hands-on, virtual workshop. Participants will try several different styles of poetry with prominent Ypsilanti-area poets. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 1 - 4

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

Hours below | YDL-Whittaker

See page 12 for details.
Thursday, May 1: 6-8pm (members-only sale)
Friday, May 2: 11am-5pm
Saturday, May 3: 11am-3pm
Sunday, May 4: 1-4pm

May 3

A GREAT DAY IN YPSI

1 PM | YDL-Michigan

Inspired by Art Kane's *A Great Day in Harlem* photograph and Writer of Ypsilanti Debbie Taylor's book *Sweet Music in Harlem*, we're gathering writers, word-lovers, and community members for a photo in the YDL-Michigan Library Plaza that celebrates Ypsilanti's creativity and spirit. See page 12 for more information.

May 3

POETRY MONTH AWARDS CEREMONY

4 PM | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a celebration of creativity, expression, and the power of words at our Poetry Month Awards Ceremony. See page 9 for details.

May 3

POETRY MONTH CELEBRATION EVENT

6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

To conclude the *Let's Celebrate* poetry writing workshop series, we will have an open mic poetry event in the YDL-Michigan Library Plaza.

May 7

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES PANEL

6:30 PM | Virtual

Representatives from The US Small Business Administration, the MI Small Business Development Center, and the Ann Arbor Area SCORE Office discuss small business resources that are free to entrepreneurs. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 8

BIRTHING BASICS

6 PM | YDL-Superior

See Mar. 6 description.

May 17

SCREENWRITING: THE HERO'S JOURNEY IN 3 ACTS

11 AM | Virtual

Join us for this virtual workshop, led by screenwriter and current Writer of Ypsilanti R.J. Fox, to discuss a detailed breakdown of conventional screenplay structure. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 18

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SWAP

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join Washtenaw County Master Rain Gardeners to exchange your favorite native plants with fellow gardeners. Bring your own plants to share and leave with new treasures for your garden!

May 21

OUR HEALTH AND OUR EYES

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join Dr. Erin Klukas, a low vision optometrist from the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, as she explores how diabetes, high cholesterol, and blood pressure impact our eye health as we age. This event is a part of our Low Vision Series created in partnership with Kellog Eye Center.

May 21

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: LLC OR DBA?

6:30 PM | Virtual

Learn about the different kinds of legally registered businesses. We will also review the proper business form documents on the Michigan LARA site to guide you. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 24

SPRING ALL AGES CLOTHING SWAP

3-5 PM | YDL-Michigan

Join us in the downtown Library Plaza for a clothing swap for all ages and sizes. Registration is not required but is encouraged for those bringing clothing. Questions? Contact Shoshanna (shoshanna@ypsilibrary.org) or Ellen (esteves@ypsilibrary.org).

Adult Meetups

Mondays, Mar 3 - May 19

MAHJONG MEETUP

1 PM | YDL-Whittaker

A weekly Mahjong group for new and experienced players. Chinese-style sets will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. All experience levels welcome.

Mar 3 | Apr 7 | May 5

READ IT & EAT IT: COOKBOOK CLUB

6 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Choose a recipe from a specific book or theme each month, prepare it, and bring the dish to share and discuss! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 3 | Apr 7 | May 5

SEW SOCIAL

7 PM | YDL-Superior

Bring your latest project and meet with crafters that share an enjoyment of needlework! Share project ideas, seek advice, and work on your projects. All skill levels are welcome!

Mar 4 | Apr 1 | May 6

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY BUNCH

7 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Share stories and research techniques, deal with old photos, and hang out with other people interested in genealogy.

Tuesdays, Mar 4 - May 27

KNITTING PLUS

6 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Meet with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas. Open to all, any handcraft welcome!

Tuesdays, Mar 4 - May 27

MEDITATION WITH EASE

6 PM | YDL-Superior

Drop in for simple, guided, non-religious awareness practices in the company of friends you may not have met yet!

Wednesdays, Mar 5 - May 28

MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA

10 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Come to this FREE falls-prevention program from the Ann Arbor YMCA that uses the principles and movements of Tai Chi to help older adults increase their strength, improve their balance, and increase their confidence.
NO CLASS Wednesday, April 30th

Wednesdays, Mar 5 - 19 & Apr 2 - May 28

ESL BOOK CLUB

11 AM | YDL-Michigan

For intermediate to advanced readers. Meet weekly to talk about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a book. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Washtenaw Literacy at (734) 337-3338.

Mar 6 | Apr 3 | May 1

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP

10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Join us on the first Thursday of the month to discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction books.
Mar 6: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel
Apr 3: *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World* edited by Ada Limón
May 1: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Mar 20 | Apr 3 & 17 | May 1 & 15

EUCHRE CLUB

6:30 PM | See description for locations

Play tournament-style Euchre at the library. Players will be shuffled after each game and the player who wins the most games will be our Euchre Champion for the evening! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events to ensure a spot. For questions, contact Brett Hamilton (bhamilton@ypsilibrary.org, Whittaker branch) or Ellen Steves (esteves@ypsilibrary.org, Michigan Avenue branch).
Apr 3 & May 1: YDL-Michigan
Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15: YDL-Whittaker

Fridays, Mar 7 & 14

CHAIR YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS, WITH INSTRUCTOR MELANIE HERRON

10:30 AM | YDL-Superior

Experience the benefits of Chair Yoga, including enhanced flexibility, improved mobility, and greater awareness of breath.

Saturdays, Mar 8 & 22 | Apr 5 & 19 | May 3, 17 & 31

YDL GUITAR CLUB

10 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Practice your skills, learn new songs, and play in a group. Other stringed instruments are welcome, and singing is encouraged, but emphasis is on the guitar. Questions or comments? Contact Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.

Mar 10 | Apr 14 | May 12

DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP

6 PM | YDL-Michigan

Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community (ages 18+) are invited to bring projects to work on and build a creative community. Questions or comments? Contact Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335.

Mar 10 | May 12

BANNED BOOK CLUB (Ages 16+)

7 PM | YDL-Superior

Read, discuss, and celebrate stories that have sparked controversy and inspired change. Copies of the book are available at the Superior branch one month before the discussion date. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Mar 10: *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
May 12: *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

Mar 11 | Apr 8 | May 13

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB

7 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join us for this adult discussion group for fans of science fiction books. Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker branch one month before the discussion date. Questions? Contact Marianne at vandenbergen@ypsilibrary.org.
Mar 11: *Fifth Season* by N. K. Jemisin
Apr 8: *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir
May 13: *Everything for Everyone: An Oral History of the NY Commune, 2052-2072* by M.E. O'Brien

Mar 12 & 26 | Apr 9 & 23 | May 14 & 28

CROCHET CLUB

6 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Gather with other crocheters to share projects, get ideas, and more. Adults only, open to all.

Mar 13 | Apr 10 | May 8

BOARD GAME MEET UP

6:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Play board games at the library! Each session, a staff member will be on hand to teach and play a highlighted game, or you can bring your own to play, share, or teach. For questions, contact Brett Hamilton (bhamilton@ypsilibrary.org).

Mar 13 | Apr 10 | May 8

YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB

6 PM | Location TBD

Work on zines, share techniques and ideas, and make zine-making friends. Basic art materials provided. Find out how you can contribute your own zine to YDL's growing zine collection!

Mar 15 | Apr 19 | May 17

WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (WAAGS)

10:30am | Virtual

Washtenaw African American Genealogical Society (WAAGS) meets virtually every third Saturday to helps those interested in African American genealogy research. For more information contact Jean Winborn at owinborn@yahoo.com.

Mar 15

SILENT BOOK CLUB

11 AM | YDL-Whittaker

At Silent Book Club, there's no assigned reading. This is a 2-hour meetup with fellow readers: 30 minutes of settling in, an hour of reading quietly with other book-loving folk, and 30 minutes to chat. Questions? Contact club organizer Marie Plumb at mplumb24530@gmail.com or 734-735-9211.

Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

WRAPPED IN LOVE BOOBIE CLUB

6:30 PM | YDL-Superior

Stop in to share your breastfeeding journey, ask questions, get lactation support, or just hang out with other parents. This is a safe space for anyone planning to or currently breastfeeding to meet other parents and to get support from lactation experts.

Mar 20 | Apr 17 | May 15

QUEER BOOK GROUP

6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

Read and discuss literature written by queer-identifying writers with diverse backgrounds.
Mar 20: *Selected Works of Audre Lorde* by Audre Lorde
Apr 17: *Swimming in the Dark* by Tomasz Jedrowski
May 15: *Light From Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki
Email Dr. Z at kziegler@ypsilibrary.org to register.

Saturdays, Mar 22 | Apr 5 & 19 | May 3, 17 & 31

INTERGENERATIONAL CHESS CLUB

2 PM | YDL-Michigan

Our club fosters a friendly and inclusive environment that encourages players from different generations to connect, learn, and grow through the game. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Mar 25 | Apr 29 | May 27

BULLET JOURNAL CLUB

6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

Organize your life with the Bullet Journal method. Ryder Carroll developed the bullet journal (BuJo) method as a system of organization that allows you to plan flexibly in a simple notebook. We will set up our journals with a couple of sample spreads to inspire you. Notebooks will be provided, or you can bring your own.

Mar 25 | Apr 29 | May 27

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

7 PM | Virtual

Join us for lively discussions of books by African American authors.
Mar 25: *Black Women Will Save the World* by April Ryan
Apr 29: *The Reformatory Book* by Tananarive Due
May 27: *The Message* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Mar 27 | Apr 24 | May 29

PARANORMAL CLUB

6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

Delve deep into the fascinating world of the unknown. We explore a wide range of paranormal phenomena, share personal experiences, and engage with expert guest speakers.

Saturdays, Apr 12 & May 10

WAX IN THE STACKS

4 PM | YDL-Michigan

In this unique vinyl listening group, we invite music lovers and curious listeners to gather and explore a different music genre each month using a vintage 1960s Mustang II portable vinyl player.
Apr 12: Prog Rock
May 10: Disco

Thursdays, Apr 24 - May 22

MAH-JONGG BAGGALEY STYLE

1:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Learn Mah-Jongg Baggaley Style from Amy Seetoo. This style was developed by Stuart Baggaley, who began teaching this version of it in Ann Arbor in 2002. Attend any session, then come to the weekly Mahjong Meetup on Mondays at 1pm at Whittaker to continue practicing. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Fridays, May 9 & 23

FRIDAY WALKING CLUB (55+)

10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Join us for a 30-minute walk along a path near the library and enjoy each other's company while getting some exercise! Questions? Call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

Teen

Mar 21

TEEN STEAM CAFE

6 PM | YDL-Michigan

Enjoy interactive, lively discussions about STEAM careers with professionals in various fields that you may have never heard about. Fun STEAM activities, dinner, and a gift card raffle will be incorporated into these teen-only after hours cafes.

Apr 12

FIRST AID SKILLS (Ages 12-18)

2 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Learn Hands-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed with the Washtenaw County Health Department. Then assemble a kit of first aid supplies to take home.

Wednesdays, Apr 2 - 30

LET'S CELEBRATE - POETRY MONTH WRITING WORKSHOPS

6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

Celebrate National Poetry Month in April with weekly sessions that explore different styles of poetry and writing themes.
Week 1: Music and poetry
Week 2: Free verse, acrostic, and haiku
Week 3: "Black Out" and "Found" poetry
Week 4: Poetry with Ypsilanti's 2024 Youth Poet Laureate Ruth Mella
Week 5: Language and culture in poetry

Apr 19

MAKE PIZZA

3:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Make pizza from scratch, both crust and sauce, then add your own toppings. We'll have vegetarian and vegan options.

Teen Meetups

Saturdays, Mar 1, 15 & 29 | Apr 12 & 26 May 10 & 24

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: DROP-IN FOR TEENS

10:30 AM | YDL-Michigan

Enjoy D&D with an experienced DM, an adventurous storyline, and pre-generated characters. Each Saturday is a one-shot game (done in one sitting) with an overarching campaign. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register or with questions.

Mar 4 & 18 | Apr 1 & 15 | May 6 & 20

TEEN GREAT STORIES CLUB
4:30 PM | YDL-Michigan
Enjoy a fun-filled teen book club featuring snacks, free books, and a gift card raffle. Explore questions of race, equity, identity, and history. Email kscott@ypsilibrary.org to join.

Mar 11 & 25 | Apr 8 & 22 | May 13

TAG (TEEN ADVISORY GROUP)
4:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Students in Grades 8-12 are invited to join TAG, the library's youth advisory group. Plan and lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunities and write grants, earn service hours, and meet new friends. Apply to join at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Kids & Parents

Mar 1

CATCHING MIRRORS WITH SPINNING DOT THEATRE
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Kick off this year's Family Read with a puppet show by Cameron Prevatte and the Spinning Dot Ensemble. Celebrate accepting yourself as you are, believing in your crazy ideas, and not letting yourself down. Designed for ages 8+, but everyone welcome.

Mar 1

FAMILY READ: PAPER BAG PUPPETS
2 PM | YDL-Superior
In celebration of our 2025 Family Read, design and create your own paper bag puppet.

Mar 5

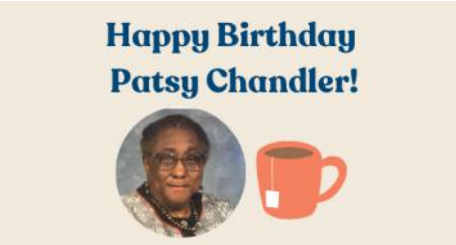
CELEBRATING YOUR GREATNESS - FAMILY READ EVENT
6:30 PM | YDL-Superior
Enjoy a short read-aloud from our 2025 Family Read book, *The Puppets of Spelhorst,* and then create a collage that represents the specialness of you. Free copies of the book will be available for up to 8 families in attendance.

Mar 8

OWLS WITH LESLIE SCIENCE AND NATURE CENTER
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join Leslie Science and Nature Center to meet a live owl, then see what you can learn while properly dissecting an owl pellet. This is part of our Family Read series.

Mar 13

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PATSY CHANDLER! A CELEBRATION OF KINDNESS
3-7 PM | YDL-Michigan
In celebration of both Patsy Chandler and our Family Read program, come out to create kindness for others! Visit the library to celebrate Patsy's birthday, enjoy a cup of tea, and engage in community building.



Mar 13 & 27 | Apr 10 & 24 | May 8 & 22

READ TO MOON THE LIBRARY DOG
5:30 PM | YDL-Michigan
Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to sign up for a 10-minute slot.

Mar 15

SHADOW PUPPETS
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join Doodles Academy to learn the history of shadow puppets, then design and build your own. Test your creations in a premade shadow theater, as part of our Family Read series.

Tuesdays, Mar 18 - May 20

DARE2DESIGN WITH EMUINVENT
5:30 PM | YDL-Michigan
As a family, identify a problem, research solutions, create and test prototypes, and refine your concepts during this 10-week program to invent something with EMU professors and students. In March 2026, participating youth will have an opportunity to showcase their prototype at EMU's Invention Convention and could qualify to compete at the state level at The Henry Ford Museum! This program is targeted at low-income families with children in grades 2-10. Dinner, incentives, and fun are included! Contact Stephanie Pocsi-Morrison at (734) 879-1305 x1363 or smorrison@ypsilibrary.org to register. *Sponsored by Toyota and EMUiNVENT.*

Mar 20 | Apr 17 | May 15

READ TO BAMBI THE LIBRARY DOG
5:50 PM | YDL-Superior
Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Contact nrussell@ypsilibrary.org to reserve a 10-minute slot.

Mar 22

MAKER AFTERNOON: 2025 FAMILY READ PUPPET MAKING
3 PM | YDL-Michigan
Celebrate the 2025 Family Read with a Maker Night all about puppets. Library Board Member and professional puppeteer Brian Steimel will lead a workshop on how to make your own puppet out of commonly available craft supplies. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 24 & 25 | Mar 27 & 28

SPRING STEAM: THE PUPPETS OF SPELHORST
12 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Mar 24: Make a mini puppet theater and stick puppets.
Mar 25: Write your own script with tools provided by 826Michigan.
Mar 27: Create your very own puppet character.
Mar 28: Use our math archery sets to practice target shooting and create and test marshmallow slingshots.
Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

Mar 24 - 27

SPRING BREAK STEAM BOREDOM BUSTERS
2 PM | YDL-Michigan
Join us at the library for activities and programs to let off some STEAM.
Mar 24: Build with Play-Doh
Mar 25: Beads, beads, and more beads!
Mar 26: Explore science and music in celebration of the 2025 Family Read
Mar 27: Explore art

Mar 26

EMBRACING YOUR CROWN: HAIR DEMO AND WORKSHOP
6 PM | YDL-Superior
Practice styling hair—for ages 10 and up. *Embracing Your Crown* is the 2nd of a two-part series for families caring for Black hair. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 26

MUSIC AND MIXTAPES (Ages 8-12)
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Tweens, create a shrinky dink mixtape keychain featuring a working Spotify code! Bring the code from your own custom playlist or use one of ours. Enjoy snacks, chat with friends, and combine STEM concepts with art to craft something truly unique.

Mar 26 - 28

SPRING BREAK STEM
2 PM | YDL-Superior
Drop in over Spring Break for hands-on activities highlighting STEM learning.
Mar 26: Lego printmaking
Mar 27: 3D drawing
Mar 28: Origami
Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

Mar 28

SPRING BREAK BOREDOM BUSTER: READERS THEATRE WITH AUTHOR DEBBIE A. TAYLOR
2 PM | YDL-Michigan
Join author Debbie A. Taylor for a unique storytelling experience featuring her book *Step It Up! The French Dukes*.

Mar 29

BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY
(Ages 5-12)
1 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a book party with local organization Black Men Read. Helping children re-shape their world and its possibilities, we'll share in a fun storytime and spark creativity with crafts based on themes from the 2025 Family Read.

Mar 29

CELEBRATE KINDNESS
2 PM | YDL-Michigan
In the YDL 2025 Family Read, *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Kate DiCamillo, the puppets gradually realize how connected to each other everyone is. Celebrate ways to spread kindness: make kindness coins, a faux stained glass message for someone, and more.

Apr 5

STEMFEST
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Only for the curious! Visit with University of Michigan scientists and participate in engaging, hands-on activities to learn about their cutting-edge research. *Part of UM's Scientist Spotlight.*

Apr 12

CHESS TOURNAMENT
10 AM-4 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join Jenny Skidmore-Smith and the YDL Youth Chess Club for a rated tournament with 5 rounds. G/20 time control. Trophies, prizes, and pizza provided! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 12

DOG MAN PARTY
3 PM | YDL-Michigan
Celebrate our favorite half-man, half-dog, crime-fighting hero with games and crafts at our Dog Man party! You'll get a chance to win your very own copy of his newest book, *Big Jim Begins*.

Apr 19

ART PLANTS WITH SCRAP STUDIOS
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
For Earth Day, create plants using materials that would otherwise be discarded such as old packaging, containers, plastic odds and ends, and fabric scraps.

Apr 26

LITTLE SAVERS WORKSHOP: FUN WITH MONEY AND GOALS!
2 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join Eboney Byrne of Liberty Financial Services for an engaging and interactive hour where elementary school aged kids will learn the basics of saving, spending, and sharing money—all while having fun! Kids can create their very own "Savings Jar" to take home and get a free book and the tools to start their own savings journey.

Apr 26

MAKER AFTERNOON: EARTH DAY WITH BEE PRESENT HONEY
3 PM | YDL-Michigan
Join Bee Present Honey and YDL staff for an Earth Day celebration, Pollinator style! Learn about bees, beekeeping, how to support pollinators, taste honey, make bug hotels, and more. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 2

FIRST FRIDAYS AT YDL
6 PM | YDL-Michigan Library Plaza
Join YDL staff for an all-ages storytime and other fun activities to kickoff your evening at First Fridays Ypsilanti.

May 10

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS & CRAFTS
12 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Stop by between 12-2pm to create a gift for your mother figure on Mother's Day. We'll supply all the materials and cards for you to write and create. Open to all ages.

May 10

PIZZA MANIA
2 PM | YDL-Michigan
Do you love pizza? Join us for a program of pizza madness! Do the pizza taste off, create your own dessert pizza, and design pizza jewelry to take home.

May 10

BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY: SPRING INTO SPORTS!
3 PM | YDL-Superior
Join Black Men Read and Community. Leadership. Revolution (CLR) for a fun, sport- and story-filled afternoon with food.

May 24

GARDEN PLANTING
3 PM | YDL-Superior
Join us to plant our Learning Garden at the Superior Library branch.

May 31

MAKER AFTERNOON: PASTA
3 PM | YDL-Michigan
Explore different pasta shapes that can be made by hand and create 1-2 types of pasta. This program will work with these allergens: wheat, eggs. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Kids & Parents Meetups

Saturdays, Mar 1 - Apr. 26

DROP-IN WRITING FOR WEEBOTS
12 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Read a book aloud and pay attention to one special thing the writer does. Then, work with volunteers on activities inspired by that idea. ***No session March 22.***

Mondays, Mar 3 - Apr 28

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB WITH 826MICHIGAN (Grades 3-5)
5:30 PM | YDL-Superior
Get creative and stretch your writing muscles with this weekly, small-group writing program. For meeting times, registration, and more information, visit 826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab.

Tuesdays, Mar 4 - 18

FAMILY READ BOOK CLUB
5 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a family read-aloud of *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Kate DiCamillo. Each session will begin with 30 minutes to listen to the book read aloud, followed by a themed craft or art project inspired by the story.

Wednesdays, Mar 5 - 19 & Apr 2 & 9

YOUTH CHESS CLUB
4:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Learn chess at the library with Jenny Skidmore Smith. Thanks to support from the US Chess Federation and Retirement Income Solutions, each week will have different themes, culminating in a rated tournament on April 12.

Wednesdays, Mar 5 - 19 & Apr 2 - May 7

HOMEWORK HELP
5:30-7 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Elementary and middle school students can stop by the youth department with their homework and get help from a high school student volunteer.

Thursdays, Mar 6 - 20 & Apr 3 - May 8

LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB
1 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Engage in themed activities each week inspired by a book. Activities include STEM exploration, arts and crafts, movement, building, open play, and learning about how to use your library. For ages 6-9 and families.

Thursdays, Mar 6 - 20

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: PALEONTOLOGY
5 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Create your own dinosaur with our giant Imagination Playground foam bones, unearth a fossil, and more. New activities each week.

Mar 6 | Apr 3 | May 1

TWEEN BOOK CLUB
6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register.
Mar 6: *City Spies* by James Ponti
Apr 3: *Insurgent* by Veronica Roth
May 1: *Allegiant* by Veronica Roth

Mar 12 | Apr 9 | May 14

READING READINESS BOOK CLUB
(Ages 3-6)
5 PM | YDL-Michigan
Caregivers and kiddos will work together to practice pre-reading skills, how to support reading readiness, and how to master them! Each family unit will leave with a book-related to the book club's theme, as well as age-appropriate tips and tricks for practicing pre-reading skills. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 15 | Apr 26 | May 24

ASL FRIENDLY STORYTIME
11 AM | YDL-Superior
Join us for songs and books fully interpreted in ASL. There will be time to play with age-appropriate toys afterwards for kids up to age 5.

See below for dates

BEDTIME STORYTIME
Mar 26 | 7 PM | YDL-Michigan
Apr 10 & 24 | 7 PM | YDL-Superior
Have fun as a family, wind down for the night, and build early learning skills with soothing stories, songs, and movement.

Mar 20 | Apr 17 | May 15

KIDS BOOK CLUB
6:30 PM | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack.
Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register.
Mar 20: *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Kate DiCamillo (2025 Family Read book)
Apr 17: *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
May 15: *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

Tuesdays, Apr 1 - 22

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
(Grades 2-5)
5 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Join us this session for *I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919* by Lauren Tarshis. Enjoy listening to the book read aloud followed by a themed STEAM activity each week.

Thursdays, Apr 3 - 24

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: LEGO CODING
5 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Learn basic coding with our Lego Spike sets, or free build!

Thursdays, May 1 - 15

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: GARDEN STEM
5 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Learn about garden design by planning & planting our library garden!

May 12

KINDERCONCERTS
10 & 11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Join members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for a guided introduction to a different instrument of the orchestra each season. Kids will be mesmerized by hearing a story being told with musical accompaniment.

Stories and Fun for Little Ones

Mar 7

STUFFIE SLEEPOVER STORYTIME
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Bring a stuffed animal to hear stories. Then you can leave your stuffie for a "sleepover" at the library. When you pick up your stuffie, you'll get a photo showing something your little friend did during their overnight stay! Part of the 2025 Family Read.

Mar 8

GOING TO THE DOCTOR STORYTIME
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
UM Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician Tiffany Munzer will share stories and songs to help little ones learn about going to the doctor and why doctors and nurses are an important part of the community, followed by playtime.

Mar 14

BUILD A STORYTIME KIT
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Kids and parents: work together to create the pieces to help you present a fun storytime and build early literacy skills at home! We will make movement dice, streamers, shakers, and more.

Mar 21 - 22 | Apr 18 - 19

SENSORY STATIONS
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Explore different themed sensory and art stations. Attend Friday or Saturday for the same set of stations. Designed for ages 2-6.
Mar 21-22: Explore the life of birds with texture, sound, and sight stations.
Apr 18-19: Experience different textures at sensory activity stations.

Mar 29

TAIKO DRUMMING STORYTIME
11 AM | YDL-Superior
Hear a few stories read by Kallista Marie and music by Larry An and Eileen S. Ho of Great Lakes Taiko Drumming.

Apr 5

BUTTERFLY STORYTIME
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Join Tatiaira Herndon— writer, poet, author, and illustrator from Ypsilanti—for a read-aloud of her picture book *When You Kiss a Butterfly* followed by butterfly crafts.

Apr 5

LITTLE ONES PLAY: MESSY SENSORY
11 AM | YDL-Michigan
Explore the 5 senses in some messy and fun ways! Sensory stations will be available for ages 0-5, including taste-safe experiences for our smallest friends. Come dressed to play.

Apr 12

STEM STORYTIME: CODING (Ages 4 - 8)
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Hear a read-aloud by Julie Darling, local educator who has written two picture books that introduce kids to coding, followed by coding activities with our Lego Spike sets and Ozobots. Then make a Caesar shift cipher to take home.

Apr 26

LITTLE ONES FAMILY PROM
11 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Get dressed up for a morning of music, dancing, light snacks, and a craft. Capture the occasion with a commemorative photo to take home. Dance the day away, but still be home in time for naps.

May 17

LITTLE ONES PLAY: NATURE SENSORY
11 AM | YDL-Michigan
Explore the natural world through the five senses. Sensory stations will be available for ages 0-5, including baby friendly stations. Stations with small parts will be kept in a separate room from all-ages stations.

MONDAYS

Mondays, Mar 31 - May 5

LITTLE ONES STORYTIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Michigan
Space for wiggly toddlers and tummy-time babies will be available along with tips and tricks for extending learning at home. Sing and move, read books, and connect with other caregivers.

Mondays, Mar 31 - May 5

JUMPSTART STORYTIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Children sit independently for an engaging blend of stories and movement, then enjoy arts and crafts and early literacy and STEM activities.

TUESDAYS

Tuesdays, Apr 1 - 29

BABY STORYTIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Superior
Hear a book or two and sing fun songs during a short lap sit storytime designed for pre-walkers. Stay to chat while your little one plays, building community with other parents and caregivers.

Tuesdays, Apr 1 - May 6

DISCOVERY TIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker
Learn about shapes, numbers, colors, feelings, kindness, and how to follow instructions using music, books, shakers, movement, and parachute play.

Tuesdays, Apr 1 - May 6

JUMPSTART STORYTIME
1 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Monday description.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays, Apr 2 - May 7

BABY TIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker
See Tuesday description.

Wednesdays, Apr 2 - May 7

READ, SING, PLAY (Walkers to Age 3)
10:30 AM | YDL-Superior
Little ones learn colors, shapes, and numbers through music and movement. Build early literacy, social emotional skills, and physical skills through play!

THURSDAYS

Thursdays, Apr 3- May 8

DISCOVERY TIME AT SUPERIOR
10:30 AM | YDL-Superior
See Tuesday description.

Thursdays, Apr 3 - May 8

READ, SING, PLAY
10:30 AM | YDL-Whittaker
See Wednesday description.

FRIDAYS

Fridays, Apr 4 - May 9

DOWNTOWN STORYTIME
10:30 AM | YDL-Michigan
Get your wiggles out while grooving to the beat! Join us for interactive storytelling, movement, and music. Open play for all ages will conclude each storytime; specific space for non-walkers and tummy timers will be provided.

Tech Help (Adults)

Register at ypsilibrary.org/events or call 734-482-4110 X2411.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS (Ages 55+)
YDL-Whittaker and **YDL-Superior**
Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email brigitte@ypsilibrary.org to schedule a one hour in-person, phone, or virtual session at Whittaker. To schedule a session at Superior, call 734-482-4110 x2431 or email mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 1, 2 PM | Apr 10, 6:30 PM | May 6, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT EXCEL – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
A basic introduction to spreadsheets. Learn to enter and edit data, select cell ranges, format cells, use the fill handle, and create simple formulas.

Mar 1, 10:30 AM | Apr 15, 7 PM | May 7, 2 PM

VEGA DISCOVER – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
An introduction to YDL's online public access catalog, Vega Discover. Learn how to find, request, and renew items. Understand the tools for managing lists and account information including checkouts and hold requests.

Mar 5, 10:30 AM | Apr 22, 6:30 PM | May 17, 2 PM

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation.

Mar 11, 6:30 PM | Apr 12, 10:30 AM | May 28, 2 PM

MICROSOFT PUBLISHER – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics for creating greeting cards, flyers, and calendars including page layout and formatting text and images.

Mar 12, 2 PM | May 3, 10:30 AM

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on a presentation.

Mar 13, 7 PM | Apr 16, 2 PM

GOOGLE CALENDAR - BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics for setting up your Google Calendar to schedule and manage your events and appointments, share event information, and send notifications/reminders to your devices.

Mar 15, 10:30 AM | Apr 2, 2 PM

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document.

Mar 15, 2 PM | Apr 17, 6:30 PM | May 13, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT EXCEL – INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets.

Mar 18, 7 PM | Apr 23, 10:30 AM | May 31, 2 PM

COMPUTER BASICS - GETTING STARTED
YDL-Whittaker
Learn the parts and proper use of the computer and Windows basics, including opening/closing applications and managing files/folders.

Mar 19, 10:30 AM | Apr 3, 7 PM | May 3, 2 PM

GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Google Drive provides access to free web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Learn to navigate Google Drive's interface and how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files/folders online.

Mar 20, 6:30 PM | Apr 26, 10:30 AM

GMAIL - BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to send and retrieve messages, add attachments, create and manage labels and filters, add contacts, and manage junk email. Participants may sign up for a Gmail account at the end of class.

Mar 25, 7 PM | Apr 30, 10:30 AM

INTERNET BASICS - HOW TO SEARCH THE WEB
YDL-Whittaker
This class covers the browser toolbar and menu options, managing your favorite websites, and using search tools and techniques.

Mar 29, 10:30 AM | Apr 9, 2 PM

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & TRICKS
YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column) and finding & replacing text.

Mar 29, 2 PM | Apr 24, 6:30 PM | May 20, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT EXCEL – PIVOT TABLES (INTERMEDIATE)
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel's PivotTable feature. Reorganize and summarize selected columns and rows of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

Apr 1, 2pm | May 14, 10:30am

FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)
Virtual
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more.

Apr 8, 2 PM | May 21, 10:30 AM

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING
Virtual
Learn the basics for hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish. Topics include: scheduling, securing, and starting your meeting, inviting participants, using host controls, Zoom etiquette, and basic troubleshooting.

Apr 12, 2 PM | May 15, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT WORD – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
An introduction to word processing. Learn to enter, format, select, copy, paste, and edit text.

Apr 23, 2 PM | May 17, 10:30 AM

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet.

Apr 26, 2 PM | May 22, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT WORD – INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Add visual interest to your documents. Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tabs.

Apr 29, 6:30 PM | May 29, 6:30 PM

MICROSOFT WORD – TIPS, TRICKS, AND HACKS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn a few tips, hidden tricks, and time-saving hacks to get the most out word. Learn to modify page numbers, recover a corrupted file, add screenshots, reduce eye strain, use the Go To command, change ribbon tab order, and more.

Apr 30, 2 PM | May 31, 10:30 AM

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS
YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets like using formulas, conditional functions and formatting, sorting, filtering and linking data, and defining a print area.

Ypsi Stories

Hear Jerome Drummond talk about the history of railroads in Ypsilanti.
Visit ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories to see all our available episodes.

YPSI STORIES

SCHOOL LITERARY AND ART ADVENTURE

This May, parents and friends are invited to hear their favorite YCS third graders perform special poetry readings at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA).

For the 7th year running, third graders in the Ypsilanti Community Schools will enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience with 826michigan and UMMA. Throughout the spring, 826michigan—a nonprofit writing and literacy program for K-12 students in southeastern Michigan—provides in-school visits to each third grade classroom and coordinates field trips to 826michigan and UMMA.

Students are asked to imagine jumping into various artworks at the museum and describe what the experience might sound, taste, or feel like. These young writers then create collaborative stories based on those descriptions, and each student leaves with a scrapbook of their class's creations.

At the end of the program in May, students will be invited back to the museum for a special night, where they read their work next to the artworks that inspired them. This year, all are welcome at UMMA on Wednesday, May 7, from 5:30-7:30pm for this uniquely fun event.

Last year, an Erickson Elementary third grader found a way to very succinctly sum up the experience: "You are so fun! I don't ever want to leave here!"

Student writing samples from previous years:

Artwork: *Dark Presence III* by Louise Nevelson (artwork pictured)

First, you need to find a place to hide. Because there is a huge robot spider monster that has sharp teeth, eight legs, two heads, five arms, and a monster tail. It has ten dragon eyes. It can make fire come out of its mouth. It can command armies and control them. This monster came from the underground world from a scientist who was trying to take over the world. So beware!

–Moslee, Ypsilanti International Elementary

Artwork: *Future Cache* by Andrea Carlson

First, you should make a tent. Then, you need to make a fire and get apples from the tree to make a treat. Then, you'll want to cook the apple pie and use sand to make a bed and go to sleep.

Then, the next morning, you should go into the lake and we scoop water and put it in your water purifier to make it safe to drink. It magically removes all of the salt! And then you should have breakfast–you can eat apples and berries that you know are safe!

Next, you will decide to make scuba gear. You can flatten the grass and use it to make scuba gear so you can dive underwater and look for the machine. You will find some fish friends, and they can show you where to go to find the shrinking machine!

Last, the fish point to the machine that will bring you back to the real world. The shrinking machine runs on apple pie, so you can put some apple pie in the machine and it makes a bubble popping sound. That's how you will know it's ready to use! You can use the shrinking machine and then you will be saved!

–Alaya Palmer, Erickson Elementary

Artwork: *Future Cache* by Andrea Carlson

First, run to find things to make a house from the forest. You take the towels and clothes with you. Hide in your house on the right side of the art piece near the trees.

Then, try to find an animal companion to keep you safe from the person who controls the dinosaurs that roam the island. You tame your companion with a bone as your companion is a wolf. You should hunt with your wolf companion to find and cook a chicken to eat.

–Zinnia, Ypsilanti International Elementary

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

3/7: ½ Day for Grades K-5 (LCS)

3/13: ½ Day for Grades K-5 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (LCS)

3/14: ½ Day (YCS)

3/19 & 3/20: ½ Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences (YCS)

3/24-3/28: No School - Spring Break (Both)

3/31: Classes Resume (Both)

4/18: No School (LCS)

4/21: No School (Both)

4/22: No School (LCS)

5/22: Senior High School Graduation (YCS)

5/23: ½ Day (Both)

5/26: No School - Memorial Day (Both)

6/5: ½ Day (YCS)

6/6: ½ Day - Last Day of School (YCS)

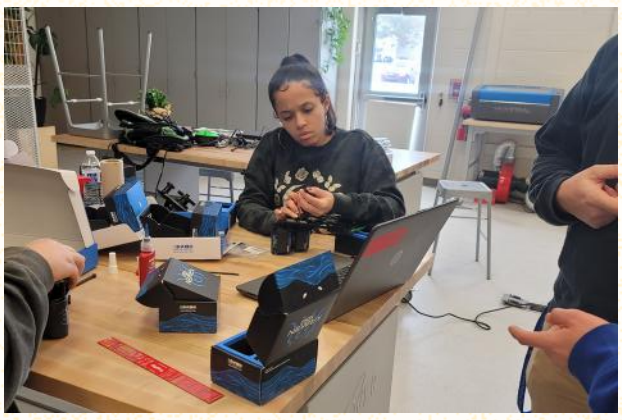
6/6: Senior High School graduation (LCS)

6/9: HS/MS Exams (LCS)

6/10: ½ Day for Grades 6-11; HS/MS Exams (LCS)

6/11: ½ Day for Grades K-11; Last Day of School (LCS)

LCS EXPANDING CTE COURSE OFFERINGS



Starting this year, Lincoln Consolidated Schools (LCS) has added an on-campus Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway in Mechatronics, which combines mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering

This program is designed to prepare students for success in both the workforce and higher education. Through the Mechatronics pathway, students can earn industry-recognized certifications that open doors to high-demand careers or further specialized training.

The Mechatronics program equips students to apply mathematical and scientific principles to the design, development, and operation of computer-controlled electro-mechanical systems. These include systems with embedded electronics, sensors, and actuators—such as automated robots—and advanced automation systems. The curriculum spans multiple disciplines, including mechanical engineering, electronic and electrical engineering, computer and software engineering, and control engineering.

To support the program's launch, LCS partnered with SME PRIME (Partnership Response In Manufacturing Education) to create state-of-the-art lab spaces and provide specialized teacher training, ensuring students can access cutting-edge resources and expertise.

"As a Lincoln graduate, it means a lot to see an investment in this type of program and [these] opportunities at Lincoln," said Richard Brooks, a 2024 graduate of Lincoln High School, during the Lincoln Engineering Technology Advisory Board meeting in December. "I also appreciate the work and passion [that went into] creating this course."

CTE programs like Mechatronics play a critical role in achieving Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan goals by equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success.

Applications for Lincoln's CTE programs are now open. For more information, visit www.lincolnk12.org.

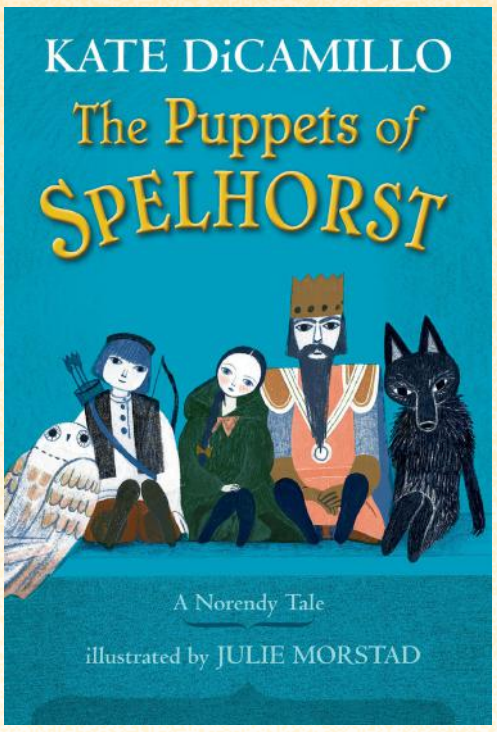
THE PUPPETS OF SPELHORST IS THE 2025 FAMILY READ

To celebrate National Reading Month in March, YDL is excited to announce the 2025 Family Read: *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Two-time Newbury Medalist Kate DiCamillo.

All month, we'll have programs and activities related to the book. *The Puppets of Spelhorst* is a short chapter book with beautiful black and white illustrations. The story follows five puppets—a king, a wolf, a girl, a boy, and an owl—from their purchase by an old seaman to being gifted to two young girls. While each puppet has unique hopes of flight, fame, and glory, and memories of sights and sounds they experience outside of the chest, they feel they are part of a bigger story that includes them all and they must stay together. Follow them on their adventures!

It is the first book in a planned trio of stories called *The Norendy Tales*, written to be read aloud and shared. Parents often read to young children, but it is also valuable to read and talk with older kids to improve reading skills, expand their vocabulary, and help them think about the world through books.

Each Family Read includes events that help readers dive into the book's themes and bring the book to life. We'll kick off the fun on March 1 with a Spinning Dot Theatre puppet show called *Catching Mirrors*.



Then, make different types of puppets of your own:

- **March 1:** Paper bag puppets at **YDL-Superior**
- **March 15:** Shadow puppets with Doodles Academy at **YDL-Whittaker**
- **March 22:** Craft supply puppets with YDL Trustee and puppeteer Brian Stimel at **YDL-Michigan**

Throughout the month, you'll also be able to celebrate your greatness by creating a unique collage at YDL-Superior, explore science, music, and kindness at YDL-Michigan, meet an owl with Leslie Science and Nature Center, or attend a stuffed animal sleepover at YDL-Whittaker. The month will wrap up with Spring Break activities. Free copies of the book will be given to those who attend book club discussions.

This year, we're tying the Family Read to a Spring Challenge. Earn points by attending library programs, completing challenges at home, or reading additional books from our list. Pick up a BINGO card at any YDL Youth Desk. Young readers who complete any combination of 5 Read, Learn, and Explore activities on the BINGO card throughout the month earn a free book of their choice; adults get a color-changing YDL cup. For each extra BINGO kids complete, they get to pick a prize from a Youth Department treasure chest.

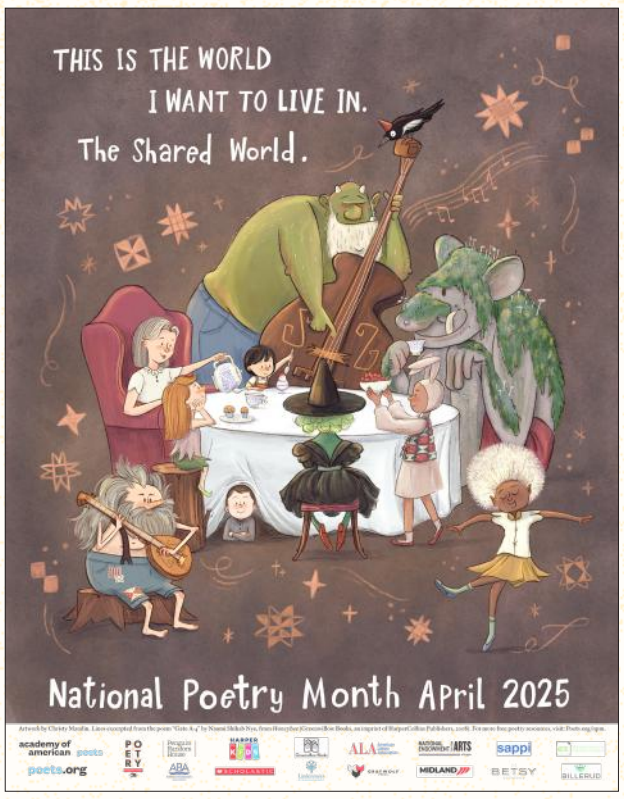
Find details and dates for all Family Read programs plus resources for teachers and families—including conversation starters, writing prompts from 826Michigan, and links to videos and activities—at **ypsilibrary.org/familyread**. Contact **jodi@ypsilibrary.org** for more information.

CALLING ALL POETS AND WORDSMITHS

national poetry month

This National Poetry Month, unleash your inner poet in YDL's community-wide poetry competition. Each week in April, YDL will accept submissions for different poetic challenges.

Our panel of judges will choose their five favorite pieces from each challenge to advance as finalists, and the public will vote for their favorite among the finalists during the last week of April. The grand finale? On May 3, we'll host a community celebration at the Michigan Avenue Library Plaza, where winners from each week will receive prizes!



Don't miss our poetry month workshops!

Starting April 2, we'll host five poetry month workshops on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at YDL-Michigan where teens and tweens can explore different poetry styles and writing techniques. We'll learn how poetry is connected to music and culture, experiment with Black Out and Find Poetry, and express our creativity with Ypsilanti's 2024 Youth Poet Laureate Ruth Mella. See more details on Page 5.

On Saturday, April 26, join YpsiWrites to celebrate National Poetry Month with "Mosaic: Poetry in Pieces," a virtual workshop where prominent local poets will lead mini-sessions about their favorite types of poetry. See more details on Page 4.

Whether you're a seasoned poet or just discovering your voice, don't miss your chance to be part of this month-long celebration of the written word! Keep an eye on **ypsilibrary.org** for submission information to come.

Workshops start at 6:30pm at YDL-Michigan unless otherwise noted

Week 1 (3/26–4/1)

HAIKU

Write a three-line poem using 5-7-5 syllables.

Week 2 (4/2–4/8)

ACROSTIC

Write a poem where the first letter of each line spells out a word.

Week 3 (4/9–4/15)

COUPLETS

Write a 4 line poem made of 2 pairs of rhyming lines (like "roses are red, violets are blue" times two!)

Week 4 (4/16–4/22)

FREE VERSE

Write from your heart with no rules—just keep it under 30 words.

Week 5 (4/23–4/29)

OPEN VOTING FOR FINALISTS IN ALL POETRY STYLES

Saturday, May 3rd

AWARDS CEREMONY

Michigan Avenue Library Plaza

This event starts at 4pm, followed by a celebration event at 6:30pm.

CORNER HEALTH HAS SERVICES IN SPANISH

The Corner Health Center has partnered with Mexiquenses Unidos en Michigan to provide Spanish interpreters for their Spanish-speaking patients. Corner Health offers a full range of health care, mental health, and supportive services for young people as they transition to adulthood.

Extensively trained interpreters will support patients and staff for clinic services, behavioral health, perinatal health, and more. Interpreters are available for patients in person on Monday and Tuesday. Availability over the phone is offered Monday-Friday. The Corner's Spanish-speaking support line is available upon request when scheduling an appointment over the phone.

"Reducing barriers to care for young people in Ypsilanti has always been the spirit of The Corner," said Ashley Anderson, Director of Programs. "We are grateful for the opportunity to build trust amongst the Spanish-speaking population here. Having trained, on-site interpreters is just the first step in making sure every young person in our community knows they have somewhere safe to go for judgment-free, quality, and affordable care."

A recipient of the 2022 Hometown Health Hero Award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Public Health Institute, Mexiquenses Unidos en Michigan has worked with the Washtenaw County Health Department, Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor Public Schools, and more to provide care and support to Latino families.

"Over the past six years, Mexiquenses has collaborated with community members to create multiple programs and initiatives aimed at social change through addressing social determinants of health to improve the well-being of Spanish-speaking immigrant communities," said Maria Militizer, president of the organization. "Our goal is to increase access to healthcare, mental health/SUD, and other social services to Spanish-speaking residents, so we are excited to partner with The Corner Health Center!"

A NEW ERA OF COMMUNITY NOURISHMENT & CONNECTION

The heartbeat of Ypsilanti's local food movement is finding its rhythm in a new space. Growing Hope is moving the Ypsilanti Farmers Market to downtown Ypsilanti, creating a deeper, more accessible connection between the community and the land.

Starting Saturday, May 3, the market will welcome neighbors, growers, and artisans to its new home at 16 S. Washington Street/Black Lives Matter Blvd. The market will be open each Saturday through October.

"This move is a declaration of our shared commitment to food sovereignty and community resilience," says Julius Buzzard, Executive Director of Growing Hope. "We are honored to deepen our roots in the local food economy, ensuring that fresh, nourishing produce is within reach of every neighbor while celebrating the vibrant heartbeat of downtown Ypsilanti as a space of growth, resilience, and joy."

According to Growing Hope, the new central location offers expanded opportunities for local farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs to showcase their goods in a larger, more accessible space. Situated just one block from the transit center, the downtown market also ensures ease of access for residents across Ypsilanti, breaking down transportation barriers and advancing Growing Hope's commitment to food sovereignty and equity.

It also will offer the opportunity to deepen connections with local organizations like YDL and the Ypsi Bike Co-op, amplify the work of local farmers, offer live music and workshops, and more.

"We envision a space where the rich diversity of Ypsilanti is reflected in both our vendors and our customers," said Claire Austin, the Farmers Market Manager. "No matter their zip code or income, everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy fresh, culturally relevant food and experience the joy of coming together every weekend."

For more details, visit ypsimarkets.info.

ICPJ PRESENTS: A SHORT HISTORY OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

The Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (ICPJ) is hosting a virtual series on Structural Racism by Ayo Magwood and Uprooting Inequity.

Ayo Magwood, an educational consultant with Uprooting Inequity, will lead three educational sessions followed by a fourth session to reflect and make action plans:

March 10 | 5:30pm: ***The Origins of Race and Racism (Colonial Era)***
Through primary historical sources, trace the social construction of the Black and White "races" and the transition from a class-based to a race-based society.

March 17 | 5:30pm: ***Structural Racism: Historical Roots and Contemporary Expressions***
Get data on contemporary racial disparities and segregation, explore the concept of structural racism through several metaphors, and hear how contemporary structural racism is rooted in the enduring legacies of this historical discrimination.

March 24 | 5:30pm: ***Remediating Structural Racism***
Get some guiding principles to remediate structural racism, learn social psychology principles for fostering interracial cooperation, and learn specific strategies for change.

March 31 | 5:30pm: ***Fighting Structural Racism***
ICPJ Co-Directors Desiraé Simmons and Eleanore Ablan-Owen will host a reflection and action-planning conversation.

Magwood specializes in ideologically-neutral, evidence-based, and solution-oriented education on historical and structural racism, Asian and Latin American racialization, and interracial conflict and cooperation. She also trains educators on how to teach about historical and structural racism. Magwood has a B.A. in economics and international relations from Brown University and a M.Sc. in applied economics from Cornell University.

ICPJ empowers our communities to make radical systemic change within Washtenaw County and across Michigan.

This series is free! Those able to contribute financially can do so through the registration site: icpj.org/blog/2024/a-short-history-of-structural-racism. By registering, you will have access to all materials that are shared, and you can attend as many sessions as you wish.

$575,000 AND COUNTING: MY FUTURE FUND CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

In its first year, the My Future Fund program opened more than 2,600 free college and career savings accounts for second through seventh grade students across Ypsilanti. Ypsilanti-area students already have over $575,000 in their My Future Fund accounts, with more on the way.

In 2025, the program will welcome first grade students and National Heritage Academy (NHA) schools.

To celebrate the program's first year, My Future Fund gave out the "Big Dream Awards" at their Fall Celebration to schools from each district with the highest family engagement.

The inaugural award winners from the Ypsilanti area were:

- Estabrook Elementary School (Ypsilanti Community Schools)
- Perry Early Learning Center (Ypsilanti Community Schools)
- Childs Elementary School (Lincoln Consolidated Schools)

Awards were also given to individuals who championed the program in their school communities, including Kelly Mickel, Principal of Erickson Elementary School in Ypsilanti Community Schools.

What is My Future Fund?: My Future Fund is a county-wide children's savings account program, through which eligible Washtenaw County students receive free money and support for college and career training. Ypsilanti area students enrolled in a participating school can still claim their piece of the additional $800,000 set aside for their My Future Fund accounts this year. Families of first–seventh grade students in Ypsilanti can unlock all the program's benefits, including the $475 bonus deposit if they qualify, by completing the information form available on myfuturefund.org by June 15, 2025.

OCED'S 3RD ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO

The Washtenaw County Office for Community and Economic Development (OCED) is bringing a number of local organizations together to help you level up your small business.

OCED's third annual Small Business Expo is happening Friday, March 14 from 9am–4pm in Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building (4800 E. Huron River Dr.).

Throughout the day, attendees can network, attend breakout sessions, and hear from experts. Whether you have an idea or a decades-long business, there will be something you can learn.

Register at bit.ly/4aajyug. To learn more visit www.washtenaw.org/569/Community-Economic-Development.

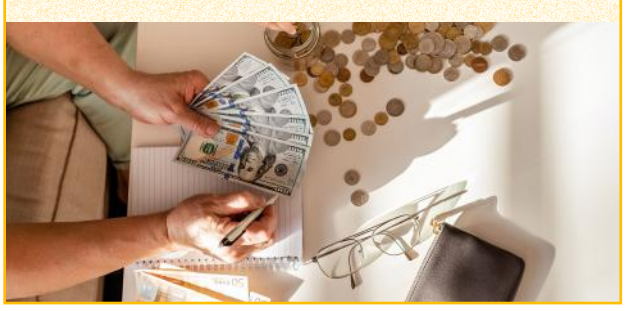
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Washtenaw County

Need help managing your money?

The Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) is a FREE resource for Washtenaw County residents that offers one-on-one financial help with a trained counselor. The FEC can help with a variety of money-related issues, including:

- Taking control of your debt
- Dealing with debt collectors
- Improving your credit
- Building your savings
- Creating a budget and a plan to stick to it
- Finding safe and affordable financial products

To make an appointment, visit bit.ly/wash-FEC.



IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY

The #WishYouKnew youth mental health campaign has a new look

—From the Washtenaw County Health Department and Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

The Washtenaw County Health Department has refreshed its #WishYouKnew youth mental health campaign, and new resource materials are now available to kids, families, and those who work with them.

The original #WishYouKnew anti-stigma campaign, which ran from 2019–2024 with funding from Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage, was developed with significant input from area young people. In fall 2023, the Health Department decided it was time to see if the original messaging and materials still resonated.

"Attitudes about mental health have evolved a lot since the pandemic," says Lisa deRamos, Communications Coordinator at the Washtenaw County Health Department. "Thinking about what youth have been through since the global health crisis—isolation from quarantine and remote learning, loss of loved ones, increased stress—all these factors have helped bring mental health awareness to the forefront for youth."

Young people from six different groups—including peer-to-peer depression awareness clubs and the Corner Health Center Youth Leadership Council—provided feedback on the original campaign materials. Themes that arose from these conversations included rejecting perfectionism and toxic positivity while embracing authenticity.

"Youth didn't want to see smiling faces in the campaign; they wanted to see teens, like them, who are also struggling with their mental health," says deRamos. "That's part of embracing authenticity and rejecting toxic positivity–removing the mask and showing it's okay to not be okay."

deRamos and the team worked together with a professional creative marketing agency to develop new campaign materials informed by feedback from young people. Billboards, Connected TV, gas station TV, and social media ads with new campaign messages went live in Washtenaw County in the fall of 2024. Among the most popular is a video message that says, "You don't have to hide."

Young people also requested new resource materials including a pocket card to reference or share, and stickers and buttons they can wear to let peers know that they're someone safe to talk with. The pocket card highlights the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and has a QR code to local mental health resources for youth and families, including the Washtenaw County CMH 24/7 Access Line: 734-544-5030.

Anyone can order #WishYouKnew resource materials to keep and share at bit.ly/wykorderform.

Importantly, young people pointed out the need for additional mental health resources for parents and caregivers.

"They reminded us that there's a lot more stigma with their parents and grandparents around mental health than among peers," says deRamos. "They wished their parents were better informed, or had more tools in their toolkit to not only support them as youth, but to support themselves."

To address this, the Health Department collaborated with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District on their "Mental Health Workshops for Parents" webinar series by providing presentations on "How to Talk to Your Kids About Mental Health" and "How to Manage Stress Through the Nervous System."

The Health Department was recently awarded renewed millage funding to continue the #WishYouKnew campaign's mission to promote open conversations about mental health, reduce stigma, and connect young people and families to mental health resources. In 2025, they plan to continue collaborations with area young people and community partners to support youth mental health.

To stay up to date on the latest #WishYouKnew campaign activities, news, and resources, follow @wishyouknewwashtenaw on Instagram. For questions on how to get involved in the campaign, contact Lisa deRamos at deramosl@washtenaw.org.

YPSIWRITES CREATES A WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

This May, YpsiWrites will announce its inaugural Writer in Residence program. The announcement will come during YpsiWrites' Great Day in Ypsi photo event on May 3 in the YDL-Michigan Library Plaza (see sidebar).

The program will be an opportunity for a former Writer of Ypsilanti to showcase their writing and collaborate with YpsiWrites on its vision and programs. The Writer in Residence will work closely with the YpsiWrites leadership team to determine the theme for YpsiWrites' upcoming calendar year of programs. They will also help develop programming and workshops to showcase how their work and skills fit within the upcoming theme.

The Writer will also serve as a member of the Writers of Ypsilanti selection committee for the next year.

GREAT DAY IN YPSI

Inspired by Art Kane's photograph *A Great Day in Harlem* and Writer of Ypsilanti Debbie Taylor's book *Sweet Music in Harlem*, we're gathering writers, word-lovers, and community members for a photo in the YDL-Michigan Library Plaza that celebrates Ypsilanti's creativity and spirit.

When: May 3 | 1-3pm
Where: YDL-Michigan Library Plaza

As part of YpsiWrites' *Telling Our Stories* theme for 2025, members of the community can participate in family-friendly writing activities from 1-3pm, with the group photo at 1:30pm.

For more information visit www.ypsiwrites.com.

FRIENDS OF YDL MAY BOOK SALE

The Friends of YDL Book Sale is coming again in May! Mark your calendars for May 1-4 at Whittaker Road.

Book sale prices are $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On Sunday, May 4 there will be bags of books available for $5, and some books will be sold for a reduced price. May 1 from 6-8pm will be a members-only preview sale. Memberships will be available for purchase at the door, so it's the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible!

BOOK SALE HOURS:

May 1	6-8pm (members-only sale)
May 2	11am-5pm
May 3	11am-3pm
May 4	1-4pm

WHITTAKER BOOK SHOP HOURS:

Monday	10am-6pm
Tuesday	10am-6pm
Wednesday	10am-6pm
Thursday	10am-6pm
Friday	10am-4pm
Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	2-4pm

HELP SHAPE THE YPSI TRANSIT CENTER'S NEW LOOK

This spring, you can provide your feedback on the new Ypsilanti Transit Center designs as well as TheRide's service. Follow TheRide on social media or sign up for their e-newsletter at TheRide.org for feedback opportunities.

ACCESSIBILITY AT THERIDE

Did you know if you're an A-Ride card holder, you can ride TheRide's fixed-routes for free?

A-Ride is a shared, reservation-based accessibility service. This service provides quality transportation for people with disabilities. A-Ride works similarly to the fixed-route service with origin-to-destination, curb-to-curb, and door-to-door services. A-Ride trips are provided in accessible lift-equipped buses. All buses can lower as needed and have ramps.

Fill out an A-Ride application at TheRide.org/services/ride-eligibility.

PLEASE NOTE: TheRide has begun replacing the tires on its buses. Please watch your step when boarding and exiting the bus, as the step in and out of the vehicle may be slightly higher than what you're used to.

GETTING TO YDL ON THE BUS:

YDL-Whittaker: Accessible on the 46 line
YDL-Michigan: Accessible on the 6 line, or one block from the Ypsilanti Transit Center
YDL-Superior: Accessible on the 42 line

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER

5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm
Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm
Sun: 1-5pm

YDL-MICHIGAN

229 W. Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Watch for an opening announcement at ypsilibrary.org

YDL-SUPERIOR

1900 Harris Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm
Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm

YDL-BOOKMOBILE

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 4-8pm

Neighborhood route and schedule:
ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile

*Board meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. They are open to the public. Visit **ypsilibrary.org/board** for meeting schedules, locations, agendas, and minutes.*

Visit ypsilibrary.org/contact-us or call 734-482-4110 for assistance.

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